

TB NOTES



TB Notes 42017

Notes from the Director

Dear Colleague:

The past couple of months have been full of exciting updates from DTBE staff. Patient enrollment has begun for the “eDOT Study.” This study will assess whether directly observed therapy (DOT) that employs [electronic communication methods](#), such as video via computer or cellphone, is a non-inferior approach to monitor TB treatment adherence, compared to traditional DOT. The study is a collaboration between the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Columbia University, and DTBE. CDC’s Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative funds the project.

On July 20th, DTBE presented the results of a systematic literature review and meta-analysis on the regimen of isoniazid and rifapentine (often referred to as “3HP”) to subject matter experts representing various fields, settings, and geographic locations in the United States. The meeting was intended to increase the transparency of DTBE’s guidance development, and to strengthen the quality of recommendations.

Another exciting advancement is CDC’s Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement, which will fund a new national laboratory equipped to perform whole genome sequencing for all isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* received from newly diagnosed patients in the United States. The National Tuberculosis Molecular Surveillance Center will advance CDC, state, and local TB control programs’ abilities to identify and investigate outbreaks of TB, and strengthen surveillance of drug-resistant TB. This technology will help to target public health interventions and better respond to emerging resistance.

In other news, DTBE is exploring new ways to communicate relevant and timely information about TB prevention and control. The Division recently launched a new video for general

audiences, [“5 Things to Know about TB.”](#)

Congratulations to the Tuberculosis Trials Consortium Drug Management Module Team, winner of the August 2017 National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention Director’s Recognition Award! The team studies drug logistics and data collection for Study 31, a Phase III treatment-shortening trial for drug-susceptible TB being conducted at 22 domestic and international clinical trial sites, which are managed through an online system known as TBTC2.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your hard work, resilience, and commitment to the important mission of TB elimination.

Philip LoBue, MD, FACP, FCCP

Director,

Division of Tuberculosis Elimination

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention